

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STOCKH 00747 171452Z

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-10 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01  
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DLOS-06 DODE-00  
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FEAE-00 FMC-02 TRSE-00  
H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
NSF-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15  
SAL-01 /143 W

-----171519 079073 /47

R 171355Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9228

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 747

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, SW, DA, GE, GW, PL, UR

SUBJECT: SWEDISH TRAWLERS IN ENCOUNTER WITH SOVIET VESSELS

1. THE SWEDISH PRESS REPORTED ON FEBRUARY 16 AND 17 THAT TWO  
SWEDISH FISHING BOATS, "EARLY" AND "VAILET," UNDER CON-  
TRACT TO THE SWEDISH BOARD OF FISHERIES FOR FISH  
RECONNAISSANCE, WERE SUBJECTED TO CLOSE SCRUTINY ON  
FEBRUARY 15 BY TWO SOVIET NAVAL VESSELS IN INTERNATIONAL  
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WATERS WEST OF KLAIPEDA IN LITHUANIA. IT WAS IN THE FORENOON  
THAT THE SOVIET VESSELS, PROBABLY FRIGATES, APPEARED CLOSE TO THE  
SWEDISH FISHING BOATS, WHERE THEY REMAINED UNTIL 3 PM. THE SOVIET  
SHIPS SIGNALLED WITH FLARES AND FLAGS, ACTIONS WHICH WERE INTER-  
PRETED TO BE AN EXHORTATION TO THE SWEDISH BOATS TO ACCOMPANY  
THE SOVIET VESSEL TO THE RUSSIAN PORT OF KLAIPEDA.

2. THE TRAWLERS RADIOED THEIR SITUATION TO KARLSKRONA, SWEDEN AND RECEIVED THE ANSWER "THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO REASON WHY THEY SHOULD GO INTO A SOVIET PORT SINCE THEY WERE IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS." THE SWEDISH AIR FORCE ALSO RESPONDED BY SENDING TWO RECONNAISSANCE PLANES TO CHECK AND PHOTOGRAPH THE INCIDENT.

3. "THE REASON FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE SOVIET SHIPS IS UNKNOWN," SAYS THE DIRECTOR OF THE FISHERIES BOARD, LENNART HANNERZ. "WE ARE EXTREMELY INTERESTED TO KNOW WHERE THE SHOALS OF BALTIC HERRING AND SPRAT ARE TO BE FOUND AT VARIOUS TIMES OF THE YEAR. WE MADE SIMILAR RECONNAISSANCE TRIPS LAST FALL AND IN JANUARY THIS YEAR." HANNERZ SAYS. "THESE STUDIES ARE A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN OUR OWN VESSELS AND CHARTERED BOATS."

4. COMMENT: PRESUMABLY THIS KIND OF ENCOUNTER WILL INCREASE AS THE QUESTION OF FISHING ZONES IN THE BALTIC HEATS UP (STOCKHOLM 530, INTER ALIS).  
SMITH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
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